

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1413

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HU, PO

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH ALVARO CUNHA OF PORTUGUESE CP

1. HUNGARIAN TV JUNE 2 CARRIED FROM LISBON INTERVIEW WITH CUNHA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF PORTUGUESE CP. CUNHA WENT THROUGH USUAL MARXIST INTERPRETATION OF OVERTHROW OF CAETANO GOVERNMENT AND CALLED FOR EARLY FREE ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. SAID THAT WHILE THERE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG GROUPS FORMING CABINET, CP SHARES BASIC AIM, PARTICULARLY THAT OF DEMOCRATIZATION OF SOCIETY.

2. REGARDING AFRICA CUNHA URGED FULL INDEPENDENCE FOR "VICTIMS OF PORTUGUESE COLONIALIZATION" AND SAID PLATFORM OF ARMED FORCES AND PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT NOT IDENTICAL ON ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE. WHEN ASKED WHY PORTUGUESE CP ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP "IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES", CUNHA ANSWERED THAT IT NOT POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT DEMOCRATIZATION

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PROCESS WITHOUT PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNISTS, AND

WITHOUT THIS COOPERATION "ZOBIRE SYSTEM OF UNITY AND POLICY OF ALLIANCE WOULD COLLAPSE". HE THEN CLAIMED THAT CP HELPING TO MAINTAIN BALANCE IN POLITICAL LIFE, ADDING SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY THAT WITHOUT ITS PARTICIPATION "PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD OPEN WAY TO RIGHTIST CABINET".

3. NEXT DAY IN INTERVIEW WITH DENES BARACS, MTI SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN PORTUGAL, CUNHA ARGUES THAT TURN OF APRIL 25 IS "THE MANIFESTATION OF EXTENSIVE AND GREAT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL TO FIGHT FASCIST DICTATORSHIP AND COLONIAL WAR". SAID PARTICIPATION OF PORTUGUESE CP IN GOVERNMENT WAS CONSEQUENCE OF ITS STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE AND RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT ROLE IT PLAYS IN DECOCRATIZING LIFE IN COUNTRY. TWO THINGS ARE NECESSARY FOR VICTORY OF DEMOCRACY, HE DECLARED, UNITY OF WORKING CLASS, MASSES OF THE PEOPLE AND DEMOCRATIC FORCES AND AN ACCORD BETWEEN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT AS A WHOLE AND "MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES".

4. CUNHA GOES ON TO SAY MONOPOLIES WILL REMAIN UNTOUCHABLE DESPITE FACT COMMUNISTS ARE IN GOVERNMENT "SINCE POWER RELATIONS DO NOT PERMIT CARRYING OUT A DIFFERENT POLICY". "IN MEANTIME", ACCORDING TO CUNHA, "LIFE MUST CONTINUE TO BE DEMOCRATIZED AND WE MUST RECON WITH REACTION, PASSIVE RESISTANCE AND ECONOMIC SABOTAGE BY MIGHTY LORDS AT EVERY MOMENT". NECESSITY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MOST INTRICATE SITUATION PREVAILING CALLS FOR GREAT "REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE REMEMBER THAT FASCISM AND REACTION STILL POSSESS A LOT OF POSITIONS IN STATE APPARATUS".

5. CUNHA CONCLUDED INTERVIEW ON OPTIMISTIC NOTE IN TALKING ABOUT FUTURE. POPULAR MOVEMENT IS VERY STRONG MASS MOVEMENT, HE DECLARED, AND "MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES WHICH POSSESSES MATERIAL AND MILITARY STRENGTH IS OF DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE CHARACTER". HE CALLED FOR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY OF WORLD PEOPLES TO REINFORCE STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL.

PEDERSEN

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